AOFOG 2026 Equivolution: Equity and Sustainability in Women's Health
12–15 October | Sydney | Australia

Compassion in Maternal-Fetal Medicine
Integrating Empathy into Evidence-Based Practice

Monday, 12th October 2026 | **08:45 AM–12:45 PM** | **Sydney, Australia**

ABOUT THE WORKSHOP

Maternal-Fetal Medicine often involves caring for women and families facing uncertainty, complex diagnoses, and difficult clinical decisions. While clinical excellence remains essential, compassionate care is equally critical in supporting patients through high-risk pregnancies. This workshop explores how empathy and evidence-based medicine can work together to improve outcomes, through expert presentations and a multidisciplinary panel discussion.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Understand the role of compassion in managing high-risk pregnancies
- Recognise the emotional impact of complex obstetric care
- Integrate patient-centred communication with evidence-based practice

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

Obstetricians, Maternal-Fetal Medicine specialists, trainees, midwives, and other healthcare professionals involved in the care of women with high-risk pregnancies.

SPEAKERS



Dr John Tait
(New Zealand)



Dr Rohana Haththotuwa
(Sri Lanka)



Dr Mahesh Choolani
(Singapore)



Dr Firoza Begum
(Bangladesh)



Dr U.D.P. Ratnasiri
(Sri Lanka)



Dr Greg Duncombe
(Australia)

PROGRAMME

Time	Programme	Speaker
08:45 AM–09:00 AM	Welcome and Opening	Dr John Tait (New Zealand) – President AOFOG Dr Rohana Haththotuwa (Sri Lanka) – Secretary-General AOFOG
09:00 AM–09:45 AM	Healing with Humanity: The Role of Compassion in High-Risk Pregnancy Care	Dr Firoza Begum (Bangladesh)
09:45 AM–10:30 AM	The Hidden Trauma of High-Risk Obstetrics: A Framework for Compassionate Counselling and Care in Complex Deliveries	Dr U.D.P. Ratnasiri (Sri Lanka)
10:30 AM–10:55 AM	***Morning Tea***	
10:55 AM–11:40 AM	Perinatal Medicine and the Emotional Landscape: Supporting Families Through Uncertainty	Dr Greg Duncombe (Australia)
11:40 AM–12:30 PM	Panel Discussion Dr John Tait Dr Rohana Haththotuwa Dr Firoza Begum Dr U.D.P. Ratnasiri Dr Greg Duncombe	Moderator Dr Mahesh Choolani (Singapore) Chair AOFOG MFM Committee
12:30 PM–12:45 PM	Closing remarks	Dr Rohana Haththotuwa (Sri Lanka)

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Click here for registration

Registration from **08:15 AM - 08:45 AM**